
News Release

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SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL OPPOSES PROPOSITION 51

Regional Board Cites Funding Transportation Priorities As Basis For Position On State Ballot Measure

LONG BEACH, CA – The Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Council weighed in today on the November elections by opposing Proposition 51, an initiative that would allocate a portion of sales tax revenues to fund specific transportation and other improvements. As the agency responsible for examining a number of regional planning and transportation issues, the SCAG vote represents an important position taken by its governing board of 71 local elected officials representing six counties.

SCAG opted to oppose Proposition 51 because it does not address Southern California's key transportation priorities, and does not guarantee that Southern California will receive its fair share of funds to implement priority transportation projects. The measure would also fund several non-transportation investments and does not take into account the impact of Proposition 42, the ballot measure approved by the voters in March that dedicates the gasoline sales tax to transportation-related programs. Overall, SCAG's Regional Council argued Proposition 51 has good intentions, but is ill-conceived as it fails to consider many local and regional transportation needs while funding several non-transportation related projects.

"While we support a number of the specific projects that would be funded through the measure, SCAG could not agree with the manner in which the proposition would fund those projects," said Lake Forest Mayor Richard Dixon, vice chairman of SCAG's Administration Committee. "Ultimately, the Regional Council could not support this measure because it does not focus on, and may take resources away from, local and regional transportation priorities that Southern California must implement."

For more information about the work of the Southern California Association of Governments, visit the SCAG Web site at www.scag.ca.gov.